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(54) **Magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus and control method thereof**

Magnetische Aufzeichnungs-/Wiedergabevorrichtung und zugehöriges Steuerungsverfahren

Appareil et méthode de commande d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This invention relates to a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus having mounted thereon magnetic heads (MR magnetic heads) including a magnetoresistive effect element (MR element), and more particularly to a positioning technique in the magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus whereby to make the magnetic head trace a desired magnetic track (a following action), then start moving to another desired track (a seek action).

[0002] As a technique to improve the positioning accuracy of the magnetic heads for the purpose of increasing the magnetic track density, there is data track servo (also referred to as "data surface servo") which uses positioning information recorded in advance on the data surfaces of a magnetic recording medium. When one is going to apply the MR magnetic head technique to this data track servo technique, it is necessary to improve the durability of the MR magnetic heads.

[0003] This will be described in detail.

[0004] If the recording density in the magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus is to be increased, it is unavoidable to reduce the magnetic transition region per unit area on the magnetic medium. This means to decrease the width of each magnetic track (the distance perpendicular to the advancing direction of a magnetic head over the track). Accordingly, the reproduction output of the magnetic head is decreased. A realistic measure to prevent this decrease of reproduction output is to improve the sensitivity of the magnetic head. Under the circumstances, the MR magnetic head including a magnetoresistive effect element (MR element), which is a read-only head for reading the magnetic transition region, has come to be used.

[0005] As means for improving the sensitivity of the magnetic heads, if an attempt is made to obtain a large reproduction output by supplying a large sense current to the MR element, there is a technical problem as follows.

[0006] Generally, the sense current density of the MR magnetic head is so high at somewhere around 10^7 A/m^2 that the life of the MR element tends to be short; for example, electromigration occurs in the material or wiring of the MR element, and a consequent rise of temperature causes the electromigration to be accelerated, resulting in breaking of the element.

[0007] In order to increase the magnetic track density, it is necessary to improve the positioning accuracy of the magnetic heads. This is the reason why data track servo has come to be used. In the data track servo technique, head positioning information recorded on the data surfaces is used. A combined use of this data track servo technique with MR magnetic heads give rise to the following technical problem.

[0008] Generally, it is necessary to make the magnetic head to perform a following action to trace a magnetic track. In the data track servo technique, it is necessary to constantly reproduce, with the magnetic head, position information recorded at the leading portions of the sectors obtained by subdividing the tracks in fan-shaped blocks. When data has been reproduced by a magnetic head, the same magnetic head continues a following action while reproducing position information until the next record or reproduce order is given. In a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus used with a low frequency of reproduction, it often takes some time before the next record or reproduce order is given, with the result that a cumulative time of use of the MR magnetic heads, including reproduction of position information, is prolonged. This has a direct bearing on the shortening of the life of the MR magnetic heads.

[0009] An object of the present invention is to lengthen the life of the MR magnetic heads by minimizing the time of supplying the sense current to the magnetoresistive effect elements of the MR magnetic heads when the magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus is in a state waiting for a data access command from the host computer, while reducing the abrasion due to continuous tracing of a same track.

[0010] IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 33, No., 4, September 1990, pages 352-353 reflecting the preamble of claim 1 discloses a multi-route servo method for a magneto-resistive head, wherein the head is turned off when it is not being used to read or write data. Research Disclosure No.316, August 1990, pages 670-671 discloses different control modes corresponding to different sampling rates depending on the number of requests occuring during a certain time.

[0011] Among the techniques for prolonging the life of the MR magnetic heads, there is a technique by which to control the head positioning time such that the cumulative time of use of each MR magnetic head, which is a sum of positioning time, data reproduction time, etc. is a fixed length of time as proposed in Japanese Patent Application No. 5-226850 (filed on September 13, 1993). In the present invention of this patent application, however, the above-mentioned problem is to be solved by the technique disclosed in the following.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] The time of conduction to the MR magnetic heads is decreased in compensation for the prolongation of starting time of seek by the MR magnetic heads when the magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus is in a waiting state. Incidentally, the specifications for the magnetic disk apparatus or the magnetic tape apparatus, for example, to which the present invention is applied, have such items as:

1) if a servo track servo (or servo surface servo) control system is provided, before a seek action is started, initialization (RTZ action : Return to Zero

action) is performed by which the magnetic heads are moved to specified positions; and
2) if a data surface servo control system is provided, magnetic track position information is read when a seek action is resumed.

[0013] Therefore, it does not matter much even if the prolongation of starting time of seek occurs when the magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus is in a waiting state. It ought to be noted that in the data surface servo technique, an RTZ action may be taken.

[0014] A method for controlling a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus according to the invention is defined in appended claim 1. A magnetic disk system according to the invention is defined in claim 6.

[0015] In addition, a fixed voltage or electric power is applied at regular intervals to means for positioning the MR magnetic heads, such as an actuator or voice coil motor.

[0016] Note that what is here referred to as an idle seek action is a seek action that the magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus performs by itself independently for the purpose of preventing dirt from adhering and growing on the slider portions of the magnetic heads when the magnetic heads are positioned continuously at a specific track. The seek action may be performed for other purposes.

[0017] Description will now be made of the effects obtained by the arrangement mentioned above.

[0018] To give an example, in a magnetic disk apparatus, the time of order execution, such as recording, reproduction or a seek action performed when accessed by the host computer is far longer than the waiting time (standby state) during which the following action continues as there is no access made by the host computer. In the magnetic tape apparatus, on the other hand, when accessed by the upper equipment, the time of tape running during which the following action is taking place until a specified location for recording or reproduction is reached is considerably longer than the time of order execution during which recording or reproduction or a seek action is performed.

[0019] In this standby state, if a sense current is conducted continuously to the MR elements to reproduce positioning signals for the following action, tape running, or idle seek, this will greatly affects the life of the magnetoresistive effect elements. Therefore, when the magnetic disk apparatus is in the waiting state that there is no access from the host computer, if the following action, tape running or idle seek is done by the above-mentioned means, by reducing to zero or controlling to minimize the time of supplying a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect elements of the MR magnetic heads, the life of the MR elements can be prolonged.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020]

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing the main configuration of the magnetic disk apparatus according to a first embodiment;
Fig. 2 is a diagram showing the main configuration of the magnetic tape apparatus according to a second embodiment;
Fig. 3 is a flowchart of a servo control method used in the first embodiment;
Fig. 4 is a flowchart of a second servo control method used in the second embodiment; and
Fig. 5 is a flowchart of a third servo control method of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

a) first embodiment:

[0021] Fig. 1 shows the main configuration of the magnetic disk apparatus according to a first embodiment. This main configuration includes one or a plurality of magnetic disks 1, MR magnetic heads 2 corresponding to the number of the magnetic disks (the MR magnetic heads constitute a read-only combined head using magnetoresistive effect elements), a carriage 3, a voice coil motor 4, a recording/reproduction amplifier 5 having a function to send a sense current into the MR magnetic head, a mode, etc. selection circuit 6 for controlling the mode selection, recording or reproduction selection, and magnetic head selection, a recording signal generator circuit 7, a reproduction selection circuit 8, a data signal reproduction circuit 9, a servo signal reproduction circuit 10, an interface and control circuit 11, a servo control circuit 12, and a power amplifier 13.

[0022] In Fig. 1, the carriage 3 and the voice coil motor 4 are shown as linear actuators, but the present invention can be similarly applied in the apparatuses including rotary actuators, which are widely used in small-size disk apparatuses.

[0023] Commonly both in recording and reproduction, the interface and control circuit 11, on receiving an order from the host computer 14, sends a recording/reproduction control order 15 to the mode. etc. selection control circuit 6. Also, the interface and control circuit 11 sends a servo control order to the servo control circuit 12. The mode, etc. selection control circuit 6 decides whether a recording action or a reproducing action is done from a recording/reproduction control order 15, and sends a head selection signal, a signal 16 to control the recording/reproduction amplifier 5, and a signal 17 to control the reproduction selection circuit 8.

[0024] When information is recorded, the recording signal generator circuit 7 receives data to be record sent from the host computer via the interface and control cir-

cuit 11, and converts the data into a record signal so that the signal can be recorded on a target track on the magnetic disk 1.

[0025] When information is reproduced, the recording/reproduction amplifier 5 reads the target data on the magnetic disk 1 through the MR magnetic head 2 by the magnetic head selection signal and the signal 16 to control the recording/reproduction amplifier 5. The reproduction selection circuit 8 cuts the signal from the recording/reproduction amplifier 5 into a servo signal and a data-modulated signal by using the signal to control the circuit 8. The data signal reproduction circuit 9 demodulates a data signal from the data-modulated signal selected by the reproduction selection circuit 8, and sends the data signal through the interface and control circuit 11 to the host computer. The servo signal reproduction circuit 10 generates a position signal for servo control from the servo signal selected by the reproduction selection circuit 8. The servo control circuit 12 generates a signal for a seek or following action to the target track from the position signal generated by the servo signal reproduction circuit 10, and thereby the MR magnetic heads are positioned accurately on the target track by the signal sent through the power amplifier 13, voice coil motor 4, and carriage 3.

[0026] Next, the operation when the host computer is not connected (other than a recording or reproduction action) is described.

[0027] The interface and control circuit 11 adds information that the host computer is not connected, onto a servo control order 19 sent to the servo control circuit 12. Whereupon, the servo control circuit 12 memorizes the current position to stop servo control, and sends a signal 18 to stop servo control to the mode, etc. selection control circuit 6. The mode, etc. selection control circuit 6 sends a signal to the recording/reproduction amplifier 5 to direct it to stop the supply of a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element (MR element) in order to stop the operation of the MR magnetic head 2. As a result of the servo control being stopped, the carriage 3 enters a free state of not being under positioning control.

[0028] Subsequently, when the interface and control circuit 11 receives a connect order from the host computer, the circuit 11 adds a signal indicating that the host computer is connected, onto the servo control signal sent to the servo control circuit 12. The servo control circuit 12 sends a signal 18 to resume servo control to the mode etc., selection control circuit 6 to resume servo control. In order to resume the operation of the MR magnetic head 2, the mode etc., selection circuit 6 sends a signal to the recording/reproduction amplifier 5 directing it to supply a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect elements and read a servo signal. The servo control circuit 12 positions the carriage again at the memorized position, and processes an order from the host computer.

[0029] By the arrangement mentioned above, it has become possible to shorten the conducting time of a sense current supplied to the magnetoresistive effect elements on the basis of estimation made by taking into account the function of the whole magnetic disk apparatus.

b) second embodiment:

[0030] Fig. 2 shows a main of the magnetic tape apparatus in the second embodiment.

[0031] A magnetic tape 1' runs along a guide provided in a magnetic head assembly, not shown, and faces an MR magnetic head 2' with a little space provided between the magnetic tape and the magnetic head. The MR magnetic head 2' is mounted on a carriage 3', and connected through a recording/reproduction amplifier 5' to an electronic circuit system.

[0032] The carriage 3' can move in a direction at right angles with the advancing direction of the magnetic tape by driving an actuator motor 4'. The actuator motor 4' converts electric power into mechanical force to drive the carriage 3' by an electric signal sent to a power amplifier 13'.

[0033] In the second embodiment, to record or reproduce information on the magnetic tape 1', it is necessary to make a specified range of the tape face the MR magnetic head 2'. To increase the recording density, for example, a plurality of magnetic gaps are provided in the magnetic head, so that while moving (seek action) at right angles relative to the running direction of the magnetic tape, the MR magnetic head 2' can access the plurality of magnetic tracks on the magnetic tape. This MR magnetic head 2' performs a tracing action (following action) on the plurality of magnetic tracks until it faces the specified range of the tape. The following action may be omitted according to the relation between the track density of the magnetic tape and the required specifications for the magnetic tape apparatus, in other words, if the positioning accuracy is rough but this is tolerated.

[0034] Since the control method is the same as in description of the first embodiment of a), its description will be omitted here.

c) servo control method:

[0035] With reference to the flowchart in Fig. 3, description will now be made of methods of operating, stopping and resuming servo control.

[0036] After electric power is supplied to the magnetic disk apparatus or the magnetic tape apparatus, the disk or tape apparatus according to the embodiments positions the MR magnetic heads at cylinder 0 or track 0 to put the apparatus itself in the READY state. If a transact order is not issued by the host computer for a specified period of time, the magnetic heads need not necessarily be positioned continuously at cylinder 0 or track 0 and, therefore, a decision is made whether or not the host computer is connected and an order is being executed. Or, if the host computer is not connected and a connect

order is not issued by the host computer, then servo control is stopped and the supply of a sense current is stopped to prevent the MR magnetic heads 2 from operating. Under this condition, the apparatus waits for a connect order from the host computer.

[0037] When the apparatus receives a connect order from the host computer, servo control is resumed, a sense current is supplied to the MR magnetic heads to put them into operation, an RTZ action (Return to Zero) is executed, the MR magnetic heads are positioned at cylinder 0 or track 0 and a transact order from the host computer is executed. In the magnetic tape apparatus, the RTZ action may be omitted. In the description with reference to Fig. 3, the positioning at cylinder 0 or track 0 has been described as an example, but an RTZ action can be performed similarly at any location of the magnetic disk 1 or the magnetic tape 1'.

[0038] A second control method is as follows. In the magnetic disk apparatus configured as shown in Fig. 1 or the magnetic tape apparatus shown in Fig. 2, positioning control of the head is performed by sampling a servo signal at specified sampling periods, and when the disk or tape apparatus is in a waiting state that there is no data access command issued from the host computer, the sampling period is extended to more than twice to infinity so that the time of supplying a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element is reduced to less than half.

[0039] Referring to the flowchart in Fig. 4, description will be made of the method of switching the sampling period mentioned above.

[0040] After electric power is supplied to the magnetic disk apparatus or the magnetic tape apparatus, the disk or tape apparatus which applied this control method positions the MR magnetic head 2 at cylinder 0 or track 0 in order to put the apparatus itself in the READY state. In the magnetic tape apparatus, the RTZ action may be omitted.

[0041] When a transact order is not issued by the host computer for a specified period of time, the head need not necessarily be positioned continuously and with high accuracy at cylinder 0 or track 0 and, therefore, the sampling period is extended more than twice up to infinity to thereby reduce the time of supplying a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element to less than half down to zero. Under this condition, the magnetic disk or tape apparatus waits for a connect order from the host computer. On receiving a connect order from the host computer, the magnetic disk or tape apparatus brings the sampling period back to the specified value, sets back the time of supplying a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element to the normal length, and positions the head to cylinder 0 or track 0 with high accuracy. In the above description, a case where the head is positioned at cylinder 0 or track 0 has been shown, but the head can be positioned at any location on the magnetic disk 1 or the magnetic tape 1'.

[0042] A third control method according to the invention is as follows. In the magnetic disk apparatus configured as shown in Fig. 1, servo control is not performed when an idle seek is taking place, and the supply of a sense current is stopped to prevent the MR magnetic head 2 from operating.

[0043] Normally, to prevent the MR magnetic head from performing a following action on a specific cylinder for a long period of time while the disk apparatus is in the READY state, if no transact order is given by the host computer for more than a fixed time, the magnetic head performs an idle seek action. In other words, the magnetic disk apparatus performs a fixed seek action by itself. At this time, the feedback circuit of the servo control system is cut off, and the servo control circuit 12 supplies a small value to the power amplifier 13 to make the voice coil motor 4 rotate slowly.

[0044] Referring to the flowchart in Fig. 5, description will be made of methods of stopping and resuming the servo control operation during the above-mentioned idle seek action. The magnetic disk apparatus in this embodiment positions the MR magnetic head 2 at cylinder 0 or an optional cylinder, and waits for a transact order while performing a following action. If a transact order is not given by the host computer for a fixed period of time, the magnetic head performs an idle seek to improve the problem of abrasion. The idle seek action is performed by releasing the feedback control, stopping the supply of a sense current to the magnetoresistive element, and applying a fixed voltage to the voice coil motor at regular intervals. It is also possible to control the velocity by detecting the current flowing in the voice coil motor and estimating the actual velocity of motion of the voice coil motor.

[0045] If the applied voltage is designated by Vc and the back electromotive force constant of the coil is designated by Kb, the generated maximum velocity is expressed as

$$V = Vc/Kb$$

[0046] This idle seek action is performed by a kind of control of velocity determined by the applied voltage Vc. This control method makes it possible to keep the MR magnetic head inoperable and stop the supply of a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element while an idle seek is going on. Under this condition, the magnetic disk apparatus waits for a connect order from the host computer. On receiving a connect order from the host computer, the magnetic disk apparatus resumes servo control, supplies a sense current to the magnetoresistive effect element, performs an RTZ action, positions the head at cylinder 0, and executes a transact order from the host computer. In the description made referring to Fig. 5, a case where the head is positioned at cylinder 0 has been described, but the head can perform an idle seek action at any location on the magnetic disk 1. When a data surface servo control sys-

tem is used, the head can immediately start a seek action by reading information about track numbers and so on.

[0047] By the arrangements mentioned above, it has become possible to reduce the conducting time of a sense current supplied to the magnetoresistive effect elements on the basis of estimation made by taking into account the function of the whole magnetic disk apparatus.

[0048] The effects of the present invention are as follows.

[0049] By the present invention, the conducting time of a sense current supplied to the magnetoresistive effect elements of the MR magnetic heads is shortened greatly and, therefore, it is possible to prevent the deterioration of the element characteristics due to electromigration and so on, and the life of the MR magnetic heads can be prolonged. According to the present invention, there is provided an effect of increasing the output of the MR magnetic heads without sacrificing the reliability, so that it is possible to lengthen the life of the high-output magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus using the magnetoresistive effect elements.

Claims

1. A method for controlling a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus that has a magnetic head (2, 2') using a magnetoresistive effect element, comprising the steps of:
   stopping an operation of a feedback control system for positioning said magnetic head based on servo information read from said magnetic head when a wait state that there is no access command issued from a host computer (14) occurs,
   characterized in having further steps of:
   controlling moving or positioning said magnetic head independently of a servo information read by said magnetic head in order not to be continuously positioned at a specific track.

2. A method of controlling a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said controlling step is performed at regular intervals.

3. A method for controlling a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in
   controlling moving or positioning said magnetic head independently of a servo information read by said magnetic head after said operation of said feedback control system is stopped.

4. A method of controlling a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 3, characterized in that said magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus is a magnetic disk apparatus, said controlling moving or positioning of the magnetic head is effected by a voice coil motor (4), and wherein the velocity of said magnetic head (2, 2') is controlled by utilizing a back electromotive force produced in proportion to a moving velocity of said voice coil motor (4) by applying a fixed voltage to said voice coil motor at regular intervals.

5. A method of controlling a magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus according to Claim 3, characterized in that said magnetic recording and reproducing apparatus is a magnetic disk apparatus, said controlling moving or positioning of the magnetic head is effected by a voice coil motor (4), and wherein the velocity of said magnetic head (2, 2') is controlled by detecting a current flowing in said voice coil motor and estimating an actual velocity of the motion of said voice coil motor.

6. A magnetic recording and reproducing system comprising:

   a magnetic head (2, 2') using a magnetoresistive element;

   a magnetic medium facing said magnetic head and supported in a relative motion relationship with said magnetic head; a feedback control system including:

   a recording/reproduction amplifier (5, 5') for amplifying an electric signal transmitted to and from said magnetic head through electromagnetic conversion;

   a reproduction selection circuit (8) for selecting a signal located at a position of said magnetic medium corresponding to said magnetic head and sent from said magnetic head;

   a servo signal reproduction circuit (10) for receiving a signal from said reproduction selection circuit (8) and reproducing a signal for controlling a position of said magnetic head;

   a servo control circuit (12) for receiving a signal from said servo signal reproduction circuit (10) and controlling the position of said magnetic head over said magnetic medium; and

   a power amplifier (13, 13') for receiving and amplifying a signal from said servo control circuit (1);

   motor means for receiving a signal from said power amplifier (13, 13') and converting said signal into mechanical force;

a carriage (3, 3') whose motion is governed by said power amplifier and supporting said magnetic head; and

an interface and control circuit (11) having functions to control input and output of orders, data and other signals to and from the host computer (14) and stop an operation of said feedback control system;

wherein said servo control circuit (12) has a function to supply said power amplifier with a signal to make said magnetic head perform a seek action, independently of a servo information read by said magnetic head, after said feedback control system ceases performing its function thereof, when a wait state that there is no access command issued from a host computer occurs.

7. A magnetic disk system according to claim 6, characterized in that said servo control circuit (12) has a function to supply said power amplifier with a signal to cause a fixed voltage to be applied to said motor means at regular intervals after said feedback control system ceases performing its function thereof.

8. A magnetic disk system according to claim 6, characterized in that said servo control circuit (12) has a function to detect a current flowing in said motor means, to estimate an actual velocity of motion of said motor means, and to supply said power amplifier with a signal to control a moving velocity of said magnetic head (2, 2') after said feedback control system ceases performing the function thereof.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zum Steuern eines Magnet-Aufzeichnungs- und Wiedergabegerätes, welches einen Magnetkopf (2, 2') aufweist, der ein Magneto-Widerstandseffekt-Element verwendet, das die Schritte aufweist:
Stoppen eines Betriebs eines Feedback-Steuersystems zum Positionieren des Magnetkopfes, basierend auf einer Servoinformation, gelesen von dem Magnetkopf, wenn ein Wartestatus auftritt, daß es dort keinen Zugangsbefehl, ausgegeben von einem Hauptrechner (14), gibt,
dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es die weiteren Schritte aufweist:
Steuern des Bewegens oder Positionierens des Magnetkopfes unabhängig von einer Servoinformation, gelesen von dem Magnetkopf, um nicht kontinuierlich bei einer spezifischen Spur positioniert zu sein.

2. Verfahren zum Steuern eines Magnet-Aufzeichnungs- und Wiedergabegerätes nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Steuerschritt bei regelmäßigen Intervallen durchgeführt wird.

3. Verfahren zum Steuern eines Magnet-Aufzeichnungs- und Wiedergabegerätes nach Anspruch 1, gekennzeichnet durch Steuern des Bewegens oder Positionierens des Magnetkopfes unabhängig von einer Servoinformation, gelesen von dem Magnetkopf, nachdem der Betrieb des Feedback-Steuersystems gestoppt ist.

4. Verfahren zum Steuern eines Magnet-Aufzeichnungs- und Wiedergabegerätes nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Magnet-Aufzeichnungs- und Wiedergabegerät ein Magnetplattengerät ist, wobei das Steuern des Bewegens oder Positionierens des Magnetkopfes durch einen Schwingspulenmotor (4) bewirkt ist, und wobei die Geschwindigkeit des Magnetkopfes (2, 2') durch Verwenden einer elektromotorischen Rückkraft, die, proportional zu einer Bewegungsgeschwindigkeit des Schwingspulenmotors (4), durch Anlegen einer festen Spannung an den Schwingspulenmotor bei regelmäßigen Intervallen, erzeugt ist.

5. Verfahren zum Steuern eines Magnet-Aufzeichnungs- und Wiedergabegerätes nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Magnet-Aufzeichnungs- und Wiedergabegerät ein Magnetplattengerät ist, wobei das Steuern des Bewegens oder Positionierens des Magnetkopfes durch einen Schwingspulenmotor (4) bewirkt ist, und wobei die Geschwindigkeit des Magnetkopfes (2, 2') durch Detektieren eines Stroms, der in dem Schwingspulenmotor fließt und durch Abschätzen einer momentanen Geschwindigkeit der Bewegung des Schwingspulenmotors gesteuert ist.

6. Magnet-Aufzeichnungs- und Wiedergabesystem, aufweisend:

einen Magnetkopf (2, 2'), welcher ein Magneto-Widerstandselement verwendet;
ein magnetisches Medium, welches dem Magnetkopf gegenüberliegt und in einer Relativbewegungsbeziehung zu dem Magnetkopf unterstützt ist; ein Feedback-Steuersystem, welches beinhaltet:
einen Aufzeichnungs-/Wiedergabe-Verstärker (5, 5') zum Verstärken eines elektrischen Signals, welches zu und von dem Magnetkopf durch elektromagnetische Konversion übertragen ist;
eine Wiedergabe-Auswahlschaltung (8) zum Auswählen eines Signals, das sich an einer Position des magnetischen Mediums entspre-

chend dem Magnetkopf befindet, und vom Magnetkopf gesendet ist;
eine Servosignal-Wiedergabeschaltung (10) zum Empfangen eines Signals von der Wiedergabe-Auswahlschaltung (8) und zum Wiedergeben eines Signals zum Steuern einer Position des Magnetkopfs;
eine Servo-Steuerschaltung (12) zum Empfangen eines Signals von der Servosignal-Wiedergabeschaltung (10) und zum Steuern der Position des Magnetkopfes über das magnetische Medium; und
einen Leistungsverstärker (13, 13') zum Empfangen und zum Verstärken eines Signals von der Servo-Steuerschaltung (1);
Motoreinrichtungen zum Empfangen eines Signals vom Leistungsverstärker (13, 13') und zum Umwandeln des Signals in mechanische Kraft;
einen Wagen (3, 3'), dessen Bewegung durch den Leistungsverstärker geregelt ist, und den Magnetkopf unterstützend; und
eine Schnittstellen- und Steuerschaltung (11), die Funktionen aufweist, um Eingabe und Ausgabe von Befehlen, Daten und anderen Signalen zu und von dem Hauptrechner (14) zu steuern und einen Betrieb des Feedback-Steuersystems zu stoppen;
wobei die Servo-Steuerschaltung (12) eine Funktion hat, den Leistungsverstärker mit einem Signal zu versorgen, um den Magnetkopf eine Suchaktion ausführen zu lassen, unabhängig von einer Servoinformation, gelesen von dem Magnetkopf, nachdem das Feedback-Steuersystem aufhört, seine Funktion davon durchzuführen, wenn ein Wartestatus auftritt, daß es dort keinen Zugangsbefehl, ausgegeben von einem Hauptrechner, gibt.

7. Magnetplattensystem nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Servo-Steuerschaltung (12) eine Funktion hat, den Leistungsverstärker mit einem Signal zu versorgen, um zu bewirken, daß eine feste Spannung an die Motoreinrichtung bei regelmäßigen Intervallen angelegt wird, nachdem das Feedback-Steuersystem aufhört, seine Funktion davon durchzuführen.

8. Magnetplattensystem nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Servo-Steuerschaltung (12) eine Funktion hat, einen Strom zu detektieren, der in der Motoreinrichtung fließt, eine momentane Bewegungsgeschwindigkeit der Motoreinrichtung abzuschätzen und den Leistungsverstärker mit einem Signal zu versorgen, um eine Bewegungsgeschwindigkeit des Magnetkopfes (2, 2') zu steuern, nachdem das Feedback-Steuersystem aufhört, die Funktion davon durchzuführen.

Revendications

1. Procédé pour commander un dispositif d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique qui comporte une tête magnétique (2, 2') utilisant un élément à effet magnétorésistif, comportant les étapes consistant à :

   interrompre une opération d'un système d'asservissement visant à positionner ladite tête magnétique sur la base d'informations d'asservissement lues à partir de ladite tête magnétique lorsque s'établit un état d'attente en l'absence d'instruction d'accès émise par un ordinateur hôte (14),

   caractérisé en ce qu'il comporte en outre les étapes consistant à :

   commander le déplacement ou le positionnement de ladite tête magnétique indépendamment des informations d'asservissement lues par ladite tête magnétique de manière à ce celle-ci ne reste pas continûment positionnée au niveau d'une piste spécifique.

2. Procédé pour commander un dispositif d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ladite étape de commande est exécutée à intervalles réguliers.

3. Procédé pour commander un dispositif d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce qu'il consiste à

   de commander le déplacement ou le positionnement de ladite tête magnétique indépendamment des informations d'asservissement lues par ladite tête magnétique après, l'interruption de ladite opération dudit système d'asservissement.

4. Procédé pour commander un uispositif d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique selon la revendication 3, caractérisé en ce que ledit dispositif d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique est un dispositif à disque magnétique, ladite commande du déplacement ou du positionnement de la tête magnétique est effectuée par un moteur à bobine mobile (4), et dans lequel la vitesse de ladite tête magnétique (2, 2') est commandée en utilisant une force contre-électromotrice produite en proportion d'une vitesse de déplacement dudit moteur à bobine mobile (4) par l'application d'une tension fixe sur ledit moteur à bobine mobile à intervalles réguliers.

5. Procédé pour commander un dispositif d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique selon la revendication 3, caractérisé en ce que ledit dispositif d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique est un dispositif à disque magnétique, ladite commande du déplacement ou du positionnement de la tête magnétique est effectuée par un moteur à bo-

bine mobile (4), et dans lequel la vitesse de ladite tête magnétique (2, 2') est commandée en détectant un courant circulant dans ledit moteur à bobine mobile et en estimant la vitesse réelle du déplacement dudit moteur à bobine mobile.

6. Système d'enregistrement et de reproduction magnétique comportant :

une tête magnétique (2, 2') utilisant un élément magnétorésistif,
un support magnétique situé en vis-à-vis de ladite tête magnétique et supporté selon une relation de mobilité par rapport à ladite tête magnétique,

un système d'asservissement incluant :

un amplificateur d'enregistrement/reproduction (5, 5') pour amplifier un signal électrique transmis vers et à partir de ladite tête magnétique par conversion électromagnétique,
un circuit de sélection de reproduction (8) pour sélectionner un signal situé au niveau d'une position sur ledit support magnétique qui correspond à ladite tête magnétique et envoyé à partir de ladite tête magnétique,
un circuit de reproduction de signal d'asservissement (10) pour recevoir un signal en provenance dudit circuit de sélection de reproduction (8) et reproduire un signal pour commander une position de ladite tête magnétique,
un circuit d'asservissement (12) pour recevoir un signal en provenance dudit circuit de reproduction de signal d'asservissement (10) et commander la position de ladite tête magnétique au-dessus dudit support magnétique, et
un amplificateur de puissance (13, 13') pour recevoir et amplifier un signal en provenance dudit circuit d'asservissement (12),
des moyens formant moteur pour recevoir un signal en provenance dudit amplificateur de puissance (13, 13') et convertir ledit signal en une force mécanique,
un chariot (3, 3') dont le déplacement est gouverné par ledit amplificateur de puissance et supportant ladite tête magnétique, et
un circuit d'interface et de commande (11) disposant de fonctions pour gérer l'entrée et la sortie d'instructions, de données, ainsi que d'autres signaux vers et à partir de l'ordinateur hôte (14) et interrompre une opération dudit système d'asservissement,
dans lequel ledit circuit d'asservissement (12) dispose d'une fonction pour fournir audit amplificateur de puissance un signal de manière à ce que la tête magnétique exécute une action de recherche, indépendamment des informations d'asservissement lues par ladite tête magnétique, après que ledit système d'asservissement a cessé de remplir sa fonction, lorsque s'établit un état d'attente dû à l'absence d'instruction d'accès émise par un ordinateur hôte.

7. Système de disque magnétique selon la revendication 6,

caractérisé en ce que ledit circuit d'asservissement (12) dispose d'une fonction pour fournir audit amplificateur de puissance un signal de manière à provoquer l'application d'une tension fixe sur lesdits moyens formant moteur à des intervalles réguliers après que le système d'asservissement a cessé de remplir sa fonction.

8. Système de disque magnétique selon la revendication 6,

caractérisé en ce que ledit circuit d'asservissement (12) dispose d'une fonction pour détecter un courant circulant dans lesdits moyens formant moteur, de manière à estimer la vitesse réelle de déplacement desdits moyens formant moteur, et fournir audit amplificateur de puissance un signal pour commander la vitesse de déplacement de ladite tête magnétique (2, 2') après que ledit système d'asservissement a cessé de remplir sa fonction.

FIG.1

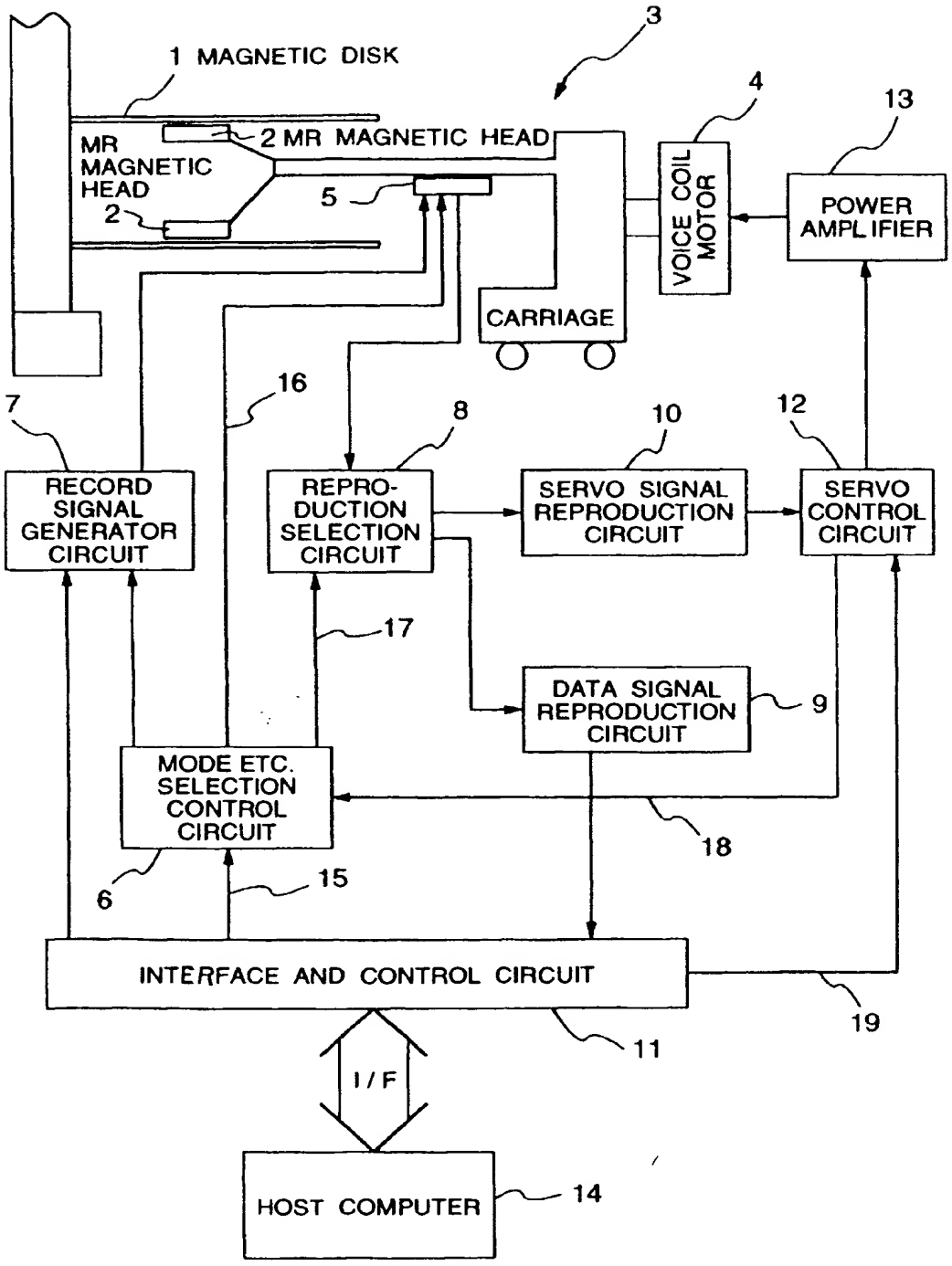

1 MAGNETIC DISK
2 MR MAGNETIC HEAD
MR MAGNETIC HEAD
2
3
4
5
13
VOICE COIL MOTOR
POWER AMPLIFIER
CARRIAGE
16
7
8
10
12
RECORD SIGNAL GENERATOR CIRCUIT
REPRO-DUCTION SELECTION CIRCUIT
SERVO SIGNAL REPRODUCTION CIRCUIT
SERVO CONTROL CIRCUIT
17
DATA SIGNAL REPRODUCTION CIRCUIT
9
MODE ETC. SELECTION CONTROL CIRCUIT
18
6
15
INTERFACE AND CONTROL CIRCUIT
19
11
I/F
HOST COMPUTER
14

FIG.2

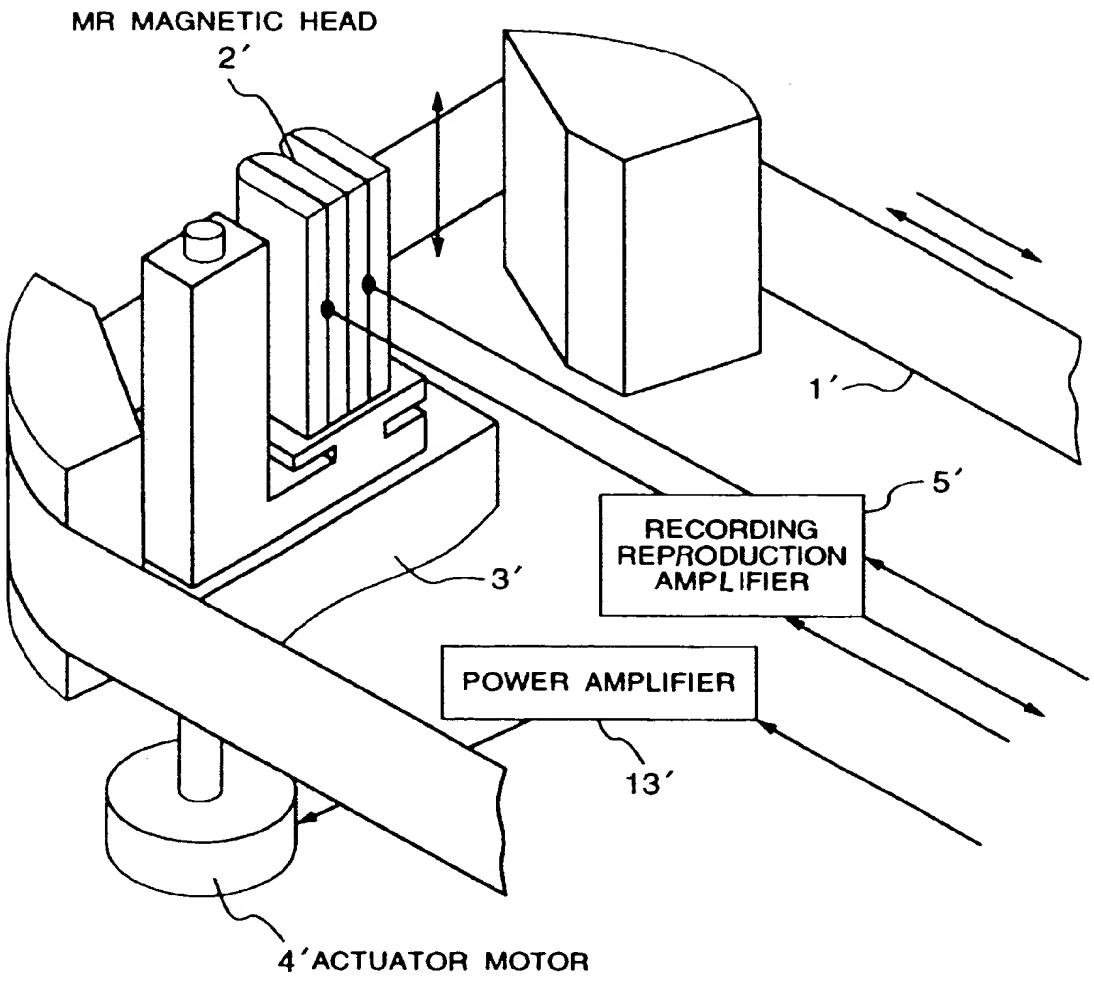

MR MAGNETIC HEAD
2'
1'
5'
RECORDING
REPRODUCTION
AMPLIFIER
3'
POWER AMPLIFIER
13'
4'ACTUATOR MOTOR

FIG.3

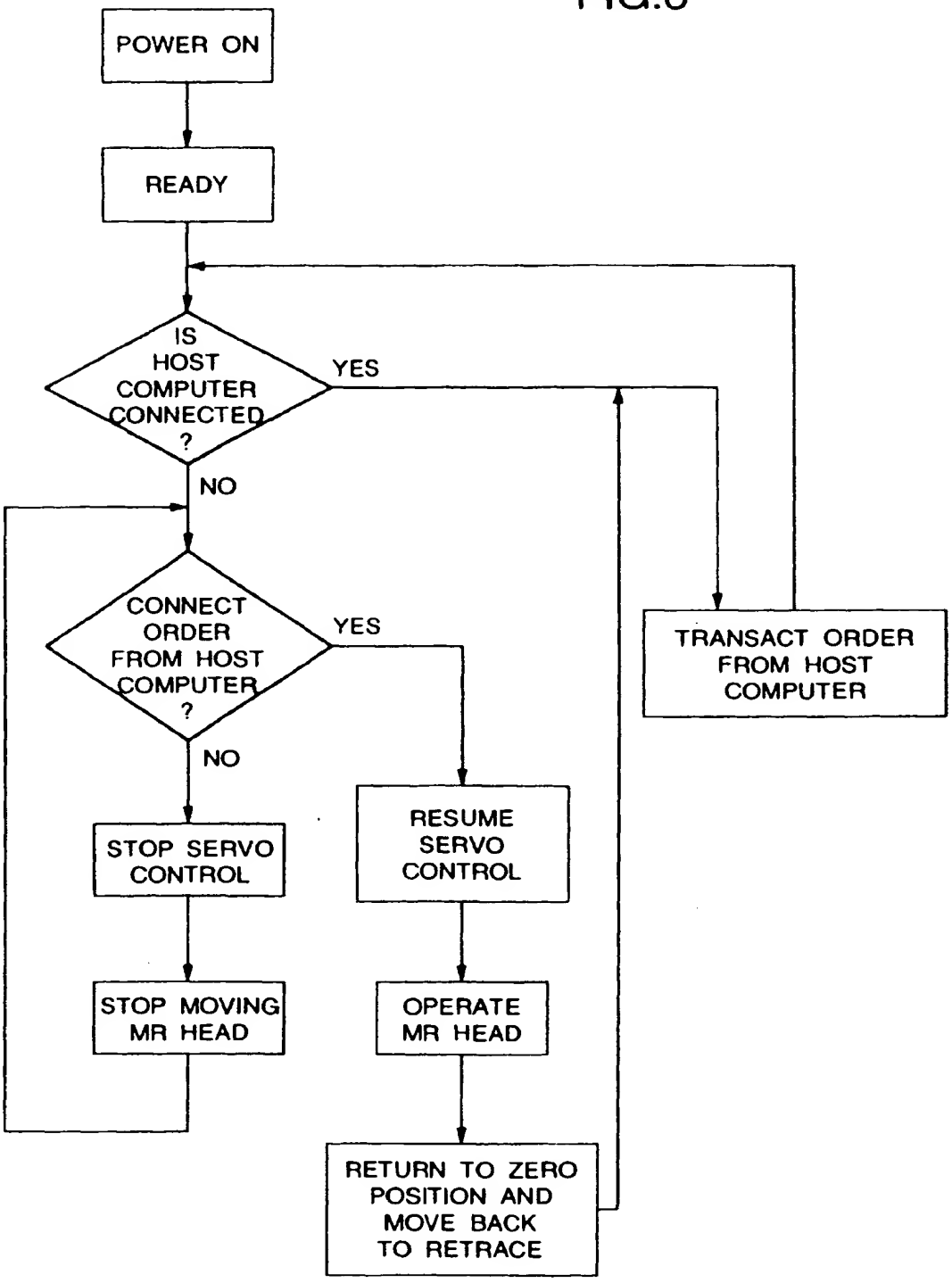

POWER ON
READY
IS HOST COMPUTER CONNECTED ?
YES
NO
CONNECT ORDER FROM HOST COMPUTER ?
YES
NO
TRANSACT ORDER FROM HOST COMPUTER
RESUME SERVO CONTROL
STOP SERVO CONTROL
OPERATE MR HEAD
STOP MOVING MR HEAD
RETURN TO ZERO POSITION AND MOVE BACK TO RETRACE

FIG.4

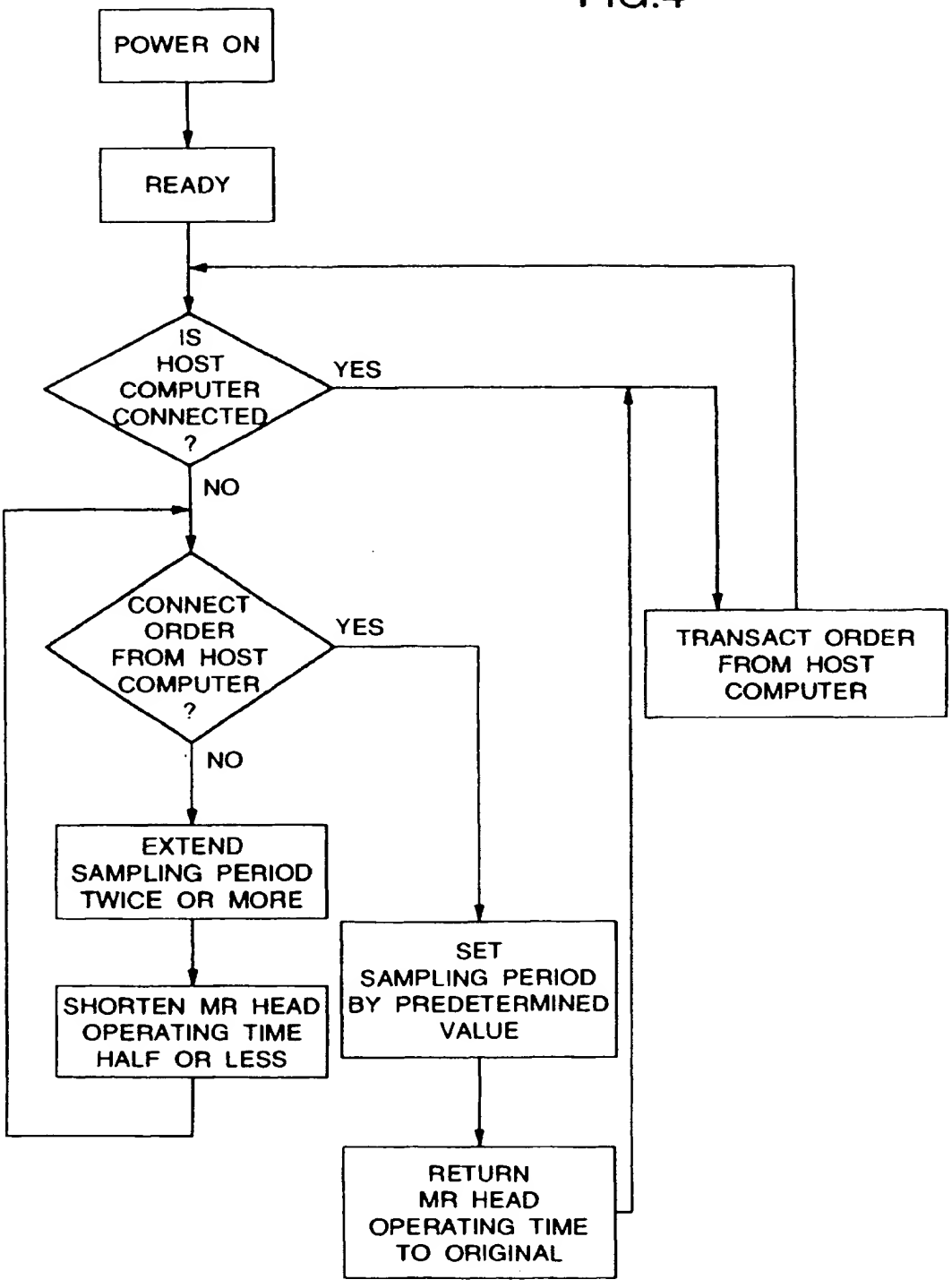
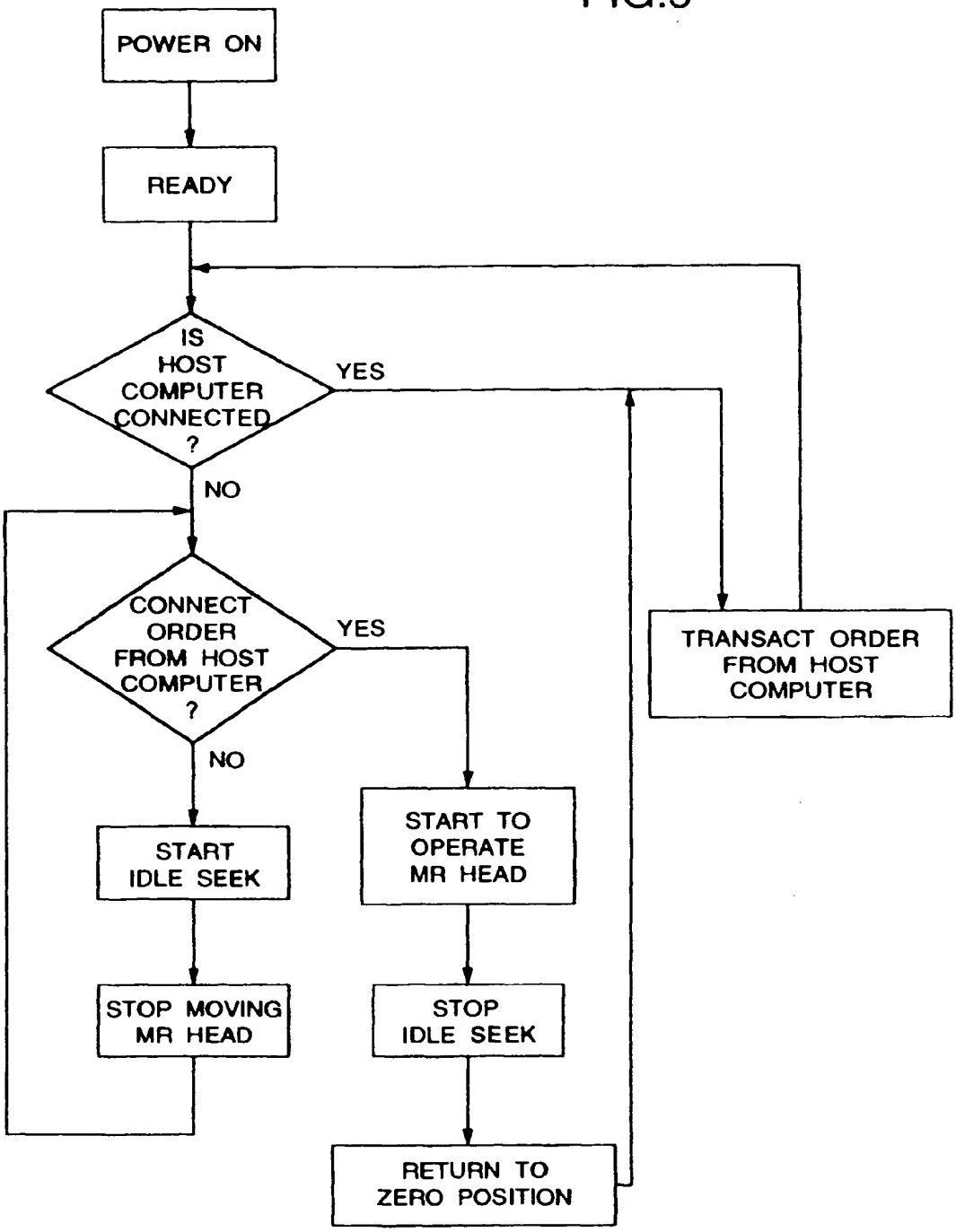

POWER ON
READY
IS HOST COMPUTER CONNECTED ?
YES
NO
CONNECT ORDER FROM HOST COMPUTER ?
YES
NO
TRANSACT ORDER FROM HOST COMPUTER
EXTEND SAMPLING PERIOD TWICE OR MORE
SHORTEN MR HEAD OPERATING TIME HALF OR LESS
SET SAMPLING PERIOD BY PREDETERMINED VALUE
RETURN MR HEAD OPERATING TIME TO ORIGINAL

FIG.5


POWER ON
READY
IS HOST COMPUTER CONNECTED ?
YES
NO
CONNECT ORDER FROM HOST COMPUTER ?
YES
NO
TRANSACT ORDER FROM HOST COMPUTER
START IDLE SEEK
START TO OPERATE MR HEAD
STOP MOVING MR HEAD
STOP IDLE SEEK
RETURN TO ZERO POSITION